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# MINUTES

OF THE

## EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

### CEDAR GROVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

HELD WITH THE

### Church at Mt. Zion,

PERSON COUNTY, N. C.

August 12th, 13th & 14th, A. D., 1875.

D. A. HOWELL, MODERATOR,  
OXFORD, N. C.

JOHN N. COLEMAN, Secretary.  
ROXBORO, N. C.

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## CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall be called the CEDAR GROVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ART. 2. The object of this Association shall be to promote the cause of our Lord Jesus Christ wherever God in His Providence shall permit, us to labor.

ART. 3 This association shall be composed of regular Baptist Churches, and in the following manner: Each Church in connection with the Association shall be entitled to send two delegates, (together with any ordained minister who holds his membership within our bounds,) who shall produce letters from their respective Churches certifying the appointment; the number baptised the preceding year, received by letter; restored; deceased; dismissed by letter; excommunicated; the whole number in full fellowship, and the days on which they hold their Church meetings. The letters shall also contain a general statement of the condition of the Churches.

ART. 4. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be elected by ballot at an annual meeting, and shall hold their offices until another election. The Moderator shall be elected annually; the Clerk and Treasurer shall hold their offices at the pleasure of the Association.

ART. 5. The Moderator shall preside in all the meetings of the association, preserve order; state and put all questions, and announce the vote of the body. The Clerk shall record the proceedings of the Association, prepare and superintend the printing of the minutes, distribute them, and enter them in a book to be kept for that purpose. He shall receive annually a compensation for his services. The Treasurer shall receive and hold all moneys belonging to the association, subject to the order of the association, and shall make at each annual meeting a report to the association.

ART. 6. This association shall have no power to interfere with the internal affairs of the Churches; but it shall be its business to advise and aid the Churches in the accomplishment of the object specified in the second article of this Constitution.

ART. 7. Any regular Baptist Church, by sending delegates to an annual meeting of this body bearing a letter containing a statement of its condition, may be admitted into this union, provided that no Church shall be received except by the unanimous vote of the delegates present.

ART. 8 This association shall correspond by delegates with kindred institutions whenever convenient; but no delegate from any other association shall be entitled to vote in this.

ART. 9. Any Church in good order, wishing to withdraw from this association shall, upon making a written request to that effect, be entitled to dismission.

ART. 10. It will be expected of the Churches composing this association to remit the funds intended by them for the promotion of the object specified in the second article to the association, all such funds shall be faithfully applied according to the directions accompanying them. Nothing in this article, or in this Constitution, shall be so construed as to compel the Churches to contribute to any object.

ART. 11. Alterations or amendments to this Constitution, provided they do not affect the second, sixth and tenth articles, may be made by a proposition at an annual meeting, subject to the approbation of two-thirds of the members at the next annual meeting.

## RULES OF DECORUM.

1st. The Moderator shall take the chair every day during the session at the hour appointed at the adjournment, and call the members to order, and on the appearance of a quorum cause the minutes of the preceeding day to be read.

2. He shall preserve order and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Association by any member.

3. He shall rise to put a question, but may state it sitting. He shall have the right to call any member to perform the duties of the chair temporarily.

4. The Moderator shall not vote on any question, unless the Association be equally divided.

5. He shall not speak in debate while occupying the chair, but may call another to the chair, and he shall have the privilege of speaking in common with any other member.

6. When any member is about to speak or deliver any matter to the Association he shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator.

7. When two or more members rise at the same time the Moderator shall name the person to speak.

8. No man shall speak more than twice on the same question without leave from the Association.

9. No member shall absent himself finally from the Association without leave.

10. Decency of speech shall be observed and personal reflections avoided

11. While the Moderator is putting a question no person shall speak, stand up, nor walk across the house; nor when a member is speaking engage in private conversation, stand up or pass between him and the Moderator.

12. When a question is under debate no motion shall be received except, to adjourn, lay on the table, postpone or amend.

13. All committees shall consist of three unless otherwise ordered by the Association.

14. A select committee shall be appointed on the first day to select ministers to preach each day of the Association and give notice to the ministers, whose duty shall be to conform to the arrangements.

15. When a motion is made and seconded it shall be put by the Moderator, unless withdrawn by the mover.

16. No standing rules shall be altered or suspended unless by a two-third vote of the members present.

17. The rules of decorum shall be read the first day of each session of the Association.

## PROCEEDINGS.

MT. ZION MEETING HOUSE, PERSON COUNTY, N. C. }  
 AUGUST 12th, 1875. }

The Cedar Grove Association convened at 10 o'clock A. M. in its EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION with the Church at Mt. Zion and was called by Elder D. A. Howell, by singing Hymn 67 Dover's selection. Appendix, prayer, by Elder F. R. Howell, of Wilmington. On motion of Elder F. R. Howell, the following committee on order of business was appointed viz: Elders D. Williams, F. R. Howell and Nelson Cousins.

The Committee on order of business, made the following report which was adopted.

First, enrolling delegates.

Second, Election of officers.

Third, Appointment of committees.

Fourth, Reports of committees.

Fifth, Miscellaneous business.

The following Churches reported, and their Pastors and Delegates enrolled.

Mt. Zion, Pastor Elder D. Williams, Delegates, D. Burnett, G. Carver. Leasburg, Pastor, Elder C. Smith; Delegates, Jacob Lee, Richard Jones. Milton, Pastor, Elder D. Johnson; Delegates, Mat. Gordon, Daniel Phelps. Hollywaysville, Pastor, Elder Samuel Seymore; Delegates, Alex. Parker, Syrus Price. Oak Grove, Pastor, Elder D. A. Howell; Delegates, A. Allen, A. Cooper. Jeter's Chapel, Pastor, Elder J. Seat; Delegates, A. Chapel, Spencer Hames. Cedar Grove, Pastor, Elder Wm. E. Toler; Delegates, A. R. Satterfield, Watkins Jones. Mayo Grove, Pastor, Elder Samuel Seymore; Delegates, G. Overby, Phil. Wilson. Dan River Bethel, Pastor, Elder Ed. Miller; Delegates, A. Ragland, P. Coleman. New Corinth, Pastor, Elder, \_\_\_\_\_; Delegates, L. Chandler. Jeff. Royster. New Hope, Pastor, Elder D. Anderson; Delegates, S. Satterwhite, R. Young. Pleasant Grove, Pastor, Elder D. Williams; Delegates, A. Blackwell, H. Satterfield. Olive Grove, Pastor, Elder L. C. Ragland, Delegates, N. Allen, R. Garrett. Piney Grove, Pastor, Elder \_\_\_\_\_; Delegates, T. Lawrence, D. Lyon. Rocky Spring, Pastor, Elder D. A. Howell; Delegates, T. Winston, Isaac Cross. Zion Hill, Pastor, Elder J. Seat; Delegates, S. Tucker, S. Young. Allen's, Pastor, Elder H. McGruder; Delegates, G. Henderson, Mager Paler. Yanceyville, Pastor, Elder A. G. Graves; Delegates, P. Graves, G. Graves.

Red Mountain, Pastor J. Mitchel, Del. H. Johnson,——Johnson, County Line, Pastor F. J. Cousins, Del. J. B. Cousins, L. Green, Grave's Chapel, Pastor A. G. Graves, Del. M. Wade, M. Graves, Lawson's Chapel, Pastor D. A. Howell, Del. L. Baily, G. Jeffreys, High Rock, Pastor C. Smith, Delegates P. Wilson., B. Comer.

On motion of Elder F. J. Cousins, the Association proceeded to elect a Moderator *vive voce* Elder D. A. Howell receiving the highest number of votes was on motion of Elder F. R. Howell declared unanimously elected Moderator of the EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION of the CEDAR GROVE ASSOCIATION.

On motion of Elder F. R. Howell the following Committee on Credentials was appointed, viz. Elders A. G. Graves, Wm. H. Toler and J. Seat

On motion of Bro. Squire Satterwhite no member of the Association should speak longer than five minutes on any one subject.

On motion of Elder L. C. Ragland, the following Committee on religious exercises was appointed, viz. Elders D. Williams, D. Johnson and Bro. Tarlton Lawrence.

On motion of Elder N. Cousins, Elder C. S. Coleman, Corresponding delegate from the Banister Association of Virginia, was recognized and welcomed to a seat with us.

On motion of Elder N. Cousins, the following Committee on Sabbath Schools was appointed, viz. Elders James Tyler, John Mitchell and Bro. A. Parker.

On motion of Bro. Ned Allen, the following Committee on Temperance was appointed, viz. Elders Nat Wooden, L. C. Ragland and Bro. J. B. H. Cousins.

On motion of Bro. Monroe Wade, the following Committee on meeting and adjournment was appointed, viz. Elder C. Smith, Bros. Monroe Wade and A. R. Satterfield.

On motion of Elder F. J. Cousins, the following Committee of five on time and place of holding the next Annual Session of the Cedar Grove Association was appointed, viz. Elders Samuel Seymore, David Johnson, F. J. Cousins, Bros. Albert Allen and Watkins Jones.

On motion of Bro. J. B. H. Cousins, the following Committee of five to select a Minister to preach the introductory Sermon at the next Annual Session was appointed, viz. Bros. Ned Allen, Jeff. Royster, Sam. Chandler, Robt. Young, and Pinkney Graves.

On motion of Bro. Pinkney Graves, the Association adjourned until 2 o'clock P. M. Prayer by Elder C. S. Coleman of the Banister Association.

## AFTER NOON SESSION.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment, Mod'ator, Eld'r D. A. Howell, called by singing 75th hymn, Dovers selection, prayer by Elder C. Smith. Committee on meeting and adjournment, made the following report, which was adopted, viz: meet at 9 o'clock, A. M., adjourn at 12 o'clock M. Meet at 2 o'clock, P. M., adjourn at pleasure. Minutes of morning session read and approved. Elder L. C. Ragland offered his resignation as Sec'y of the Cedar Grove Association, which was accepted. Bro. John M. Coleman of Person County, was unanimously chosen Secretary in the place of Elder L. C. Ragland resigned.

The appointed hour having arrived, Elder A. G. Graves of Caswell County, proceeded to preach the introductory sermon. The exercises were opened by singing hymn 273, Baptist Psalmody and reading the following scriptures:

11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;

13 And to esteem them very highly in love, for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.

15 See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.

16 Rejoice evermore.

17 Pray without ceasing.

18 In every thing give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

19 Quench not the Spirit

20 Despise not prophesyings.

21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

After which he addressed the Association from the 17th verse of the 5th chapter of 1st THESSALONIANS, "Pray without ceasing." The following points were observed in the discourse:

I. What is prayer?

1. It is not mere form, but the desire of the soul.

2. Earnest petition to a throne of grace.

II. How should we pray?

1. In Spirit. 2. In submission to God's will. 3. Fervently.

4. With confession.

5. In humility.

6. In a forgiving spirit.

III. The frequency of prayer.

1. Always in a praying frame of soul.

2. Always ready to receive the blessings of God.

IV. Prayer is needful.

1. To prevent from lukewarmness, &c., &c.

On motion of Elder Ed Miller, the churches within this Association are requested to spend at least one hour in prayer before the regular services on their appointed days of worship. Committee of religious exercises made the following report, viz: Elder John Mitchell, preach at early candle lighting, Elder Hugh McGruder, his alternate.

On motion of Bro. J. B. H. Cousins, the following obituary notice be published in the minutes of this session.

The Association adjourned until to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock, prayer by Bro. D. Burnett.

## SECOND DAY.

FRIDAY, August 13th, 1875.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment, in the temporary absence of the Moderator, Elder Wm. H. Toler was appointed Moderator, *pro. tem*. The Association met by singing and prayer by Elder Robt Wormick.

Minutes of yesterday's session read and approved. The Committee of religious exercises made the following report, viz: Preaching at the stand at 11 o'clock by Elder C. S. Coleman of Banister Association, his alternate Elder N. Cousins.

On motion of Elder N. Cousins, the reports from the several Minister's and Deacon's meetings held during the last Associational year were heard. Each district reported that good had been done by the Minister's and Deacon's meetings and advised their continuance.

On motion, that there be only two Minister's and Deacon's meetings in each district instead of four as last year. The Association adjourned until 2 o'clock P. M., prayer by Bro. Alex. Parker.

## EVENING SESSION.

August 13th, 1875.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment, Moderator in the Chair. The Association called to order, singing and prayer by Elder R. Wormick, minutes of the morning session read and approved.

On motion of Bro. Monroe Wade, the Committee on Credentials reported three new Churches desiring to unite with the Cedar Grove Association, viz: Hames Chapel, Pastor, Elder Frank Walters. Oak; Pastor, Elder Hugh McGruder. Mt. Vernon, Pastor, Elder John Mitchell.

N. B. We failed to get the names of delegates from the above Churches; [SECRETARY.]

On motion of Elder N. Cousins, the three new Churches were received, and their delegates invited to the front seat, while the



Association sung appropriate stanzas, and the officers of the Association extended to them the right hand of fellowship. Theunction of the Holy Spirit seemed to approve the reception, and such an outburst of religious feeling and overflow of christian love was never witnessed by any of us upon any similar occasion, many praising God to the top of their voices, and all melted to tears. On motion of Elder L. C. Ragland, Elder C. S. Coleman; Corresponding Delegate from the Banister Association of Virginia, give a brief but interesting account of the progress of the Baptist within the bounds of his Association, beautifully setting fourth our oneness of faith, church polity and purposes, expressing the ardent wish of our fraternal union of strength and concentration of effort against the powers of darkness and the advancement of our Redeemer's cause. On motion of Elder D. Williams, the following preamble and resolution was unanimously adopted, viz: Whereas H. A. Tupper, Corresponding Secretary of F. M. Board, Richmond, Va., has requested the colored people to do something for the "perishing millions of Africa" and whereas, said H. A. Tupper has requested the Southern people to hold a day of prayer and contribution on the first Sabbath in October next; therefore

*Resolved*, That each church within this Association, is hereby earnestly requested to hold a day of prayer and contribution on the day and date above mentioned.

Committee on religious exercises reported; Elder C. Smith to preach at night, Elder P. Wormick, alternate. On motion of Elder L. C. Ragland, the six churchmen that united with the Association at its last session, pay Elder F. R. Howell, one dollar each for representation in the State Convention, in its last Annual Meeting. Adjourned until to morrow morning 9 o'clock; prayer by Moderator.

### THIRD DAY'S SESSION.

AUGUST 14TH, 1875.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment, Moderator in the Chair. The house was called to order by singing 52 Hymn Dover's Selection; prayer by Elder C. J. Cousins. Minutes of last session read and approved. Committee on religious exercises reported, Elder Wm. H. Toler to preach at 11 o'clock, Elder Samuel Symore, alternate. On motion of Bro. Ned Allen, the Committee on time and place of holding the next session, reported. (See reports of Committees.)

On motion of Bro. Nat. Wooden, the Committee on Rocky Spring Pastorship, reported Elder D. A. Howell, as pastor of Rocky Spring, according to statement in their letter.

The Committee to select a Minister to preach the Introductory Sermon at the next Annual Session, reported, (see reports of Committees.) On motion of Elder N. Cousins, the Secretary have 600 copies of minutes printed for distribution among the churches. On motion of Elder F. R. Howell, the following resolution was unanimously adopted, viz:

*Resolved*, That the hearty thanks of this Association be and are hereby tendered to the brethren of Mt. Zion Church, and community generally, for the kind, cordial and hospitable manner in which we have been entertained during the session.

The Treasurer made the following report, viz:

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Received and amount in hand last session..... | \$60 00 |
| Paid Secretary, .....                         | \$45 00 |
| Franking expenses, .....                      | 10 00   |

|                              |         |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Total amount paid out, ..... | \$55 00 |
|------------------------------|---------|

|                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Remaining in hand, ..... | \$5 00 |
|--------------------------|--------|

F. R. HOWELL, Treasurer.

On motion of Bro. Green Carver, the Secretary be paid fifteen dollars for services rendered.

Adjourned until 2 o'clock; prayer by Elder David Johnson.

#### EVENING SESSION.

August 14th, 1875.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment, Moderator in the chair. The house was called to order by singing, prayer by Bro. Squire Satterwhite, minutes of morning session read and approved. Elder F. R. Howell offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted, viz.

*Resolved*. That each church report at our next annual session, the value of their church property.

On motion of Bro. Robt. Young, the Church Extension Board made the following report :

|                                |         |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Received from Mt. Zion Church, | \$2 00. |
| “ “ Dan River Bethel Church,   | 2 20.   |
| “ “ Graves' Chapel “           | 3 10.   |
| “ “ Cedar Grove, “             | 2 55.   |
| “ “ Milton, “                  | 25.     |
| Collected at the Association,  | 5 56.   |

|              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| Total, ..... | \$15 66. |
|--------------|----------|

|                          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Paid to Mt. Zion Church, | \$8 66. |
|--------------------------|---------|

|                     |       |
|---------------------|-------|
| Amount in Treasury, | 7 00. |
|---------------------|-------|

AARON CURTIS, Treasurer.

WM. H. TOLER, President.

On motion of Bro. Phil. Wilson, the present board was continued with the exception of James E. Howell. On motion of Elders L. C. Ragland, Harvey Harris, of Olive Grove Church, was chosen Secretary of the Church Extension Board.

On motion of Elder Wm. H. Toler, Elder L. O. Ragland was chosen to write and append to the minutes of this Association a circular letter in the Deaconship.

On motion of Bro. A. R. Satterfield, the Committee on Sabbath Schools reported, (see reports of Committees.) On motion of Elder N. Cousins, the Committee on Temperance reported, (see reports of Committees.) Elder A. G. Graves and L. C. Ragland was appointed Corresponding delegates to the next session of the Banister Association to convene with the Church Ephesus Person County, N. C., on Wednesday before the fourth Lord's day in July 1876.

Elder F. R. Howell was chosen to represent the Churches of this Association in the State Convention in October next.

The Association adjourned to meet with the Church at Red Mountain, Orange County, N. C., on the 2nd Thursday in Aug., A. D., 1876.

D. A. HOWELL, MODERATOR.

JOHN M. COLEMAN, *Sect.*

## Reports of Committees.

### COMMITTEE ON TIME AND PLACE.

We your Committee on Time and Place, beg leave to report that Red Mountain, Orange County, N. C., be the place and the 2nd Thursday in August next, be the time of holding the ninth Annual Session of the Cedar Grove Association. Respectfully submitted.

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| SAM'L SEYMORE, | } Committee. |
| DAVID JOHNSON, |              |
| F. J. COUSINS, |              |
| ALBERT ALLEN,  |              |
| WATKINS JONES, |              |

### COMMITTEE ON INTRODUCTORY SERMON.

We your Committee on Introductory Sermon, beg leave to report that Elder David Johnson, of Milton, preach the Intro.

ductory Sermon at our next Annual Session; Elder F. R. Howell, of Wilmington, alternate. Respectfully submitted.

NED ALLEN,  
JEFF. ROYSTER,  
SAM. CHANDLER,  
ROBT. YOUNG,  
PINK'EY GRAVES. } Committee.

### COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We your Committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to report: That we are happy to note an increase in Sabbath School interest within the bounds of this Association. There are 757 Sabbath School scholars in our schools at this time, an increase of 337 over last year. Brethren push forward the good work. Respectfully submitted:

JAS. TYLER,  
JNO. MITCHELL,  
A. PARKER. } Committee.

### COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE.

We, the Committee on Temperance, beg leave to report as follows: Being fully aware of the delicate position we occupy, knowing that the minds of all men are not agreed upon this subject, the prejudice of education, together with individual interest, has prevented many from giving their support to the great temperance reform, while others have seen the light, and are rejoicing in it. Having examined the subject thoroughly, we are fully convinced that its use as a beverage is one of the greatest evils with which our country and churches are cursed. We regard it as one of the greatest hindrances to the Gospel, in view of which we offer the following resolutions:

*Resolved, 1st,* That we, as a body of Christians, disapprove the manufacture, sale and use of ardent spirits as a beverage, and most earnestly entreat our brethren everywhere to join with us in discountenancing its manufacture, sale and use as a beverage.

*Resolved, 2nd,* That the Pastors of Churches be earnestly requested to deliver at least one discourse at each of their appointments on this subjects during the Associational year.

L. C. RAGLAND,  
J. B. H. COUSINS,  
NAT. WOODEN, } Committee.

## STANDING RESOLUTIONS

*Resolved, 1st,* That in the morning of each session of the Association some time be spent in devotional exercises.

*Resolved, 2nd,* That this Association will maintain a spirit of forbearance and Christian kindness towards all their brethren in the Lord.

*Resolved, 3rd,* That no brother shall be ordained without he has some education, and a gift for the work of the Gospel of Christ, in faithfully giving to God's Word what is due to it.

*Resolved, 4th,* That the Churches of this Association be requested to refrain as much as possible, from the transaction of Church business on the Lord's day, and endeavor to meet regularly on Saturday before their regular appointed Lord's day for that purpose.

*Resolved, 5th,* That the sisters of our Church be recommended to form themselves into societies to raise funds, by voluntary contributions and monthly tees to aid Pastors and other Ministers, and build houses of worship.

*Resolved, 6th,* That no Church shall be organized or recognized as in good order, that pays less than twenty-five dollars annually to the support of the gospel.

## APPENDIX.

## DUTIES OF AND REGULATIONS FOR THE CHURCH EXTENSION BOARD.

It is recommended that the Church Extension Board shall organize in each church in the Association, societies requiring each brother and sister who becomes a member of such a society to pay not less than fifty cents for joining, and not less than ten cents monthly dues. The object of such societies, to aid in the support of missionaries and building houses of worship. Such Societies to be called Missionary and Building Aid Societies. Such Societies should have their President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer; and such Societies should be required to pay over to the Treasurer of the Church Extension Board at least once every three months, all moneys collected by them in the way of entrance tees, monthly dues or otherwise. We think such societies will be the most efficient auxiliaries to the Church Extension Board.

It is the duty of the Church Extension Board to use every means and make every effort to raise the necessary funds to aid

in building good meeting houses for each church in the Association where they are needed, and to support a missionary or missionaries to preach to the destitute, but promising places of good within the bounds of the Association; to this end: It is also recommended that the board be governed by the following regulations:

1st. To adopt such measures as it may deem wise and necessary to procure funds for the purposes of the board.

2nd. To have the minutes of each meeting of the board recorded and signed by the secretary of the board.

3rd. To make a full report of its proceedings and the state of its funds to each Ministers' and Deacons' meetings in the districts. The Mt. Zion district division of the board, report to the Ministers' and Deacons' meetings of the Mt. Zion District, and the Olive Grove district division of the board report to the Olive Grove District Minister's and Deacons' meetings.

4th. To carefully examine all applications for aid, and aid such only who are found truly needy and meritorious; and make a full report of all of its proceedings to each session of the annual Association.

### MINISTER'S AND DEACON'S MEETINGS.

The Association for the sake of convenience, is divided into two districts, known as Mt. Zion District and Olive Grove District. There will be two meetings in each district during this Associational year. First meeting for Mt. Zion District, will be held with the Church at Milton, Saturday before the 2nd Sunday in Oct next. First meeting for the Olive Grove Dist., on the same day and date as above, with the Church at Cedar Grove.

1st the Ministers' and Deacons' meetings should be organized by the appointment of a chairman and secretary and opened by reading a portion of Scripture and prayer.

2. Each District should keep a register in which the names of all the Ministers and Deacons of the District should be enrolled.

### ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Roll of the members called by the secretary. 2. Receive Ministers who may apply for admission from other Associations, Districts, &c. 3. Determine the time and the place of the next quarterly meeting.

4. Look after Sabbath school interest. 5. Missionary and churchbuilding interest. 6. Ministerial improvement. 7. Day Schools and the cause of Education generally. 8. Incidental business.

## CIRCULAR LETTER-

DEAR BRETHREN: The Association has made it my duty to write upon the subject of the Nature, Qualifications and Duties of Deacons, in the form of a circular letter, to be appended to the minutes of this session. The limited space allowed for writing such a letter forbids the doing either myself or the subject justice, therefore we can do but little more than give a brief statement of the doctrine and practice of Baptists in regard to the Deaconship. Leaving our readers to receive our statements as true or search the Scripture and the record of Baptist history &c for the evidences of our statements. It is a lamentable fact that the subject of the Deaconship as regarded by the Baptist is one upon which our people throughout the Southern States are more deficient in information and in practice than any other Baptist polity.

First the nature of the Deaconship.

A Deacon is a servant. The term in its broadest sense describes Ministers as servants of all classes whether their department be temporal or spiritual. It has in its sense a similar indefiniteness with the word Church. In illustration of the truth of this remark I refer you to Romans XIII 34, Acts I 16, 17, 24, 25, 1st Corrinthians III 5, Hebrews I 14, Roman. XV 18. The word Ministry, Apostleship and Minister as found in the passages referred to is, the same word that is translated Deacon. The nature of the Deaconship finds its chief illustration in the history of the origin of the office.

By the acts there set fourth, as well as by all that appear in any other part of the word of God; it will be fully seen that as the Pastor has supervision of all the spiritualities of the church and is therefore overseer in that department; so the Deacons are overseers of all her temporalities of which they have full control. This was the form of organization in the church at Jerusalem. Acts II 44, 45, Acts VI 1 to 7 verse.

By reference to the above scriptures we learn the incontestible fact that the first Deacons were conservators of the poor, and had the administration of the property of the church which they conducted as the divinely authorized agents for the benefit of the whole community.

While the Deaconship was originated to remedy the disorder growing out of the community of goods it did not pass away with that condition of things. Every church must in the nature of things own more or less common property and funds, for the management of which the services of Deacons are essential.

She must possess a place of worship ; and she must create and sustain a treasury to support her Pastor and relieve her poor, meet her incidental expenses, aid in the general dissemination of the gospel. Who is to superintend and direct these affairs to their proper issue ? God has appointed the Deacons for this special purpose. Thus have we seen the nature of the Deaconship in the definitom of what the office really is. Let us dear Brethren adhere unwaveringly to the word of God ; maintain the Deaconship in its original form and with its primitive purposes ; and the blessings of God will attend our works of faith and labors of love.

Second. The qualifications for the Deaconship.

The success of an officer must always depend mainly upon his qualification to perform the duties of his office. The Apostles, guided by this consideration described the endowments necessary to be possessed to fit a man for this distinguished station. Refer to Acts VI, 3; 1st. Timothy III; 8, 14. In these Scriptures are briefly set forth the qualifications of the Deaconship. The subject presents six distinct points which we will consider separately, but of necessity briefly.

1 His conjugal relations. The husband of one wife. On this part of the subject, it is only necessary to state that the main purpose in that injunction was to abolish poligamy and to restore marriages to its original state, therefore that qualification is not of such importance now as then as our laws allow, but one wife unless we apply it to the abominable sin of adultery and fornication which alas, is too common among our people

2 His general reputation. "Men of honest report." Why should Deacons be of unimpeached and unimpeachable moral character, indeed above suspicion, because they are the depositories of the Church ; all of its funds and all of its contributions are received and disbursed by them ; therefore the whole Church and congregation must have undoubting confidence in their integrity.

3 His religious character. "Full of the Holy Ghost." What else but the grace of God can bear a man up in the discharge of the often disagreeable duties which Deacons are constantly called upon to discharge. For this and other reasons Deacons if possible should be like old Stephen, "Full of faith and the Holy Ghost."

4 His Scriptural principles. "Holding the mystery of the faith." Sound in doctrine, thoroughly fixed in the truth as it is in Jesus.

5 His intellectual capacity. "Full of wisdom." This does not mean education or learning however desirable that may be, for



some times learning profoundly possessed but blended with no practical good sense. What is meant by full of wisdom is good common sense, ability to manage, discriminating perception of the character of men and things. Enlarged views, a just appreciation of the objects proposed and clear perceptions of the measures to be adopted to secure them.

6 His management of his own personal affairs. Ruling his children, &c. Much could and ought to be said here, but want of space forbids; therefore suffice it to say that no man is fit for a Deacon that don't manage his own affairs at home. Look around you brethren and see what is the matter in our Churches. If a man comes short in his own affairs, how shall he take care of the Church of Christ? Is his business left at loose ends to drag itself along? Is he seldom ready to meet his engagements at the proper time? Brethren dismiss such Deacons and get others or have none.

Third. The general duties of Deacons. If the prosperity of the church is, in any degree dependendent on the prompt performance of the duties belonging to the Deaconship, those who are appointed to that office must know what those duties are. Without this they can never be discharged. What are the duties of Deacons? This question has two sides a negative and a positive one; we will first consider the negative. It is not the duty of the Deacons to preach. The reasons alleged by the Apostles are sufficient that they are not and were never designed to preach. It is not the duty of Deacons to administer the ordinances of religion. The administration of the ordinances is the prerogative of the ministry. They generally receive at the Lord's supper the bread and wine from the hands of the Minister and distribute them to the communicants. This however is not by authority but as a matter of convenience. Any other person might do the same thing. It is not the duty of Deacons to rule in the church. In their own department they rule as Pastors rule in their department, but officers in the church are only executors of the law of Christ. Both Pastors and Deacons are the servants of the people and are to be guided by God's word and have not a particle of authority beyond their respective offices. Each member has all the privileges and immunities in the government and discipline of the church that belongs to Deacons or Pastors.

Thus we have considered the negative side of the question. Now we proceed to consider what are the duties of Deacons by the divine law, we repeat it, they are placed over all the temporalities of the church. For this specific purpose and for no other were they appointed. All the property and funds belonging to

the church *as a church* is placed under their direction. Their command over them however is not absolute, but limited to such uses as the church may order. The gospel has created certain standing regulations which the church makes definite, as those to the Pastor and others. These must be met regularly and promptly. The Deacons as the depositories of the property and church funds must defray the expences of the house of God. From whence does these expences arise? The house of worship must be kept comfortable. It must be warmed in the Winter ventilated in Summer and lighted at night, consequently the services of a sexton must be procured. Baptism must be administered as such and a suitable place must be prepared, the candidates habited and attended. The table of the Lord must be spread, the necessary furniture and elements must be provided. The church frequently invites neighboring ministers to aid their Pastor on special occasions. Their expenses must be paid and their services compensated. Who are to regulate and carry all of these arrangements into effect? The Deacons, they are responsible for all these things, and the means should be placed by the Church in their hands for these purposes, besides giving their personal attention as far as necessary.

The next duty of Deacons, to administer to the wants of the poor, distressed, afflicted widow and fatherless of their church. Here volumes might be written, but want of space forbids my saying more than refering you to Mathew, VI., 35, 41. 1st. John III, 17. James I, 27.

The duties of the Deacons with reference to the Pastorship, is the last but not the least that we shall notice in this letter.

As the Deacons are the superintendants of the temporalities of the church, it is their duty to see that their Pastor receive a competent temporal support. Here my brethren you will meet with difficulty, unless you have a wisely constructed scheme of finance in successful operation. A Pastor without food, raiment and a place to shelter, can neither preach nor discharge any of the claims of his office. The law of Christ guarantees that a preacher shall have a proper return from those whom he serves: Refer to Numbers XVIII, 20. Deuteronomy X, 8, 9. 1st Corinthians IX, 13, 14. Matthew X, 5, 16. Luke X, 12. 1st Corinthians IX, 7, 4. Galations VI, 6. Luke XXII, 35, and many other Scriptures which teach that the Apostles and Evangelist received their support from the people which it was their right to claim by the law of the King of Zion. The Pastor when he enters upon his trust, looks to the church to say what support she will offer. When she has spoken and he has accepted

her proprosition, he has no more to say to the members, but to him the Deacons, and they only are responsible. They are the financial officers. They stand between the church and ministry, and should be ever ready to do their duty to both. We would like to say something upon the best plan of raising means for Pastoral support and other church expenses, but too long a letter will not do to publish with our minutes, so I must close before I am one-third through. I have only to add in conclusion that I trust all Deacons will soon fully understand and faithfully discharge their high vocation. Then indeed will the blessings of God descend upon his Churches, as the refreshing showers of Spring. The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.

L. C. RAGLAND.

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MILL CREEK, N. C., August 9th, 1875.

### **DEATH.**

God in his allwise Providence, has seen fit to remove from our midst, our much beloved and esteemed brother Thomas Jefferson, on 20th day of May, A. D., 1875. He was born 25th December 1835 and made a profession of religion 6th day of January 1873 and connected himself with Lawson Chapel, Baptist Church, and lived a consistant member until his death. In his death the community has lost an honest and honorable citizen and the Church an humble Christian. Our loss we believe to be his eternal gain and in consideration of the goodness of a Supreme being that never was known to err, we meekly submit to his divine will with the request that our brethren should endeavor to imitate his example in life. He left a large family of small children.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

| CHURCHES.             | PASTORS.             | POST OFFICE.          | Baptism | Letter | Restor'n | Dismiss'n | Exclus'n | Death | Total |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------|--------|----------|-----------|----------|-------|-------|
| Mt. Zion, .....       | Dudley Williams,     | Roxboro, N. C. . .    | 9       | 0      | 0        | 4         | 0        | 0     | 149   |
| Leasburg, .....       | Calvin Smith, ..     | Leasburg, " " . .     | 3       | 0      | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0     | 117   |
| Milton, .....         | David Johnson, ..    | Milton, " " . . .     | 8       | 1      | 0        | 2         | 5        | 2     | 177   |
| Hollywaysville, . .   | Samuel Seymore,      | Black Walnut, Va      | 0       | 0      | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0     | 4     |
| Oak Grove, .....      | D. A. Howell, ..     | Oxford, N. C. . .     | 16      | 2      | 0        | 2         | 4        | 0     | 108   |
| Jeter's Chapel, ..... | Jerry Seat, .....    | Hycó, Va. . . . .     | 18      | 7      | 0        | 6         | 0        | 0     | 151   |
| Cedar Grove, .....    | Wm. H. Toler, ..     | Roxboro, N. C. . .    | 16      | 0      | 3        | 2         | 0        | 0     | 116   |
| Mayo Grove, .....     | Samuel Seymore,      | Black Walnut, Va.     | 3       | 6      | 0        | 8         | 2        | 0     | 94    |
| Dan River Bethel.     | James E. Miller, ..  | " " " " " " . .       | 12      | 0      | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0     | 177   |
| New Corinth, .....    |                      |                       | 36      | 0      | 2        | 4         | 6        | 2     | 178   |
| New Hope, .....       | Dennis Anderson,     | Oxford, N. C. . .     | 10      | 0      | 2        | 7         | 5        | 0     | 127   |
| Pleasant Grove, ..... | Dudley Williams,     | Roxboro, N. C. . .    | 1       | 0      | 0        | 0         | 0        | 1     | 55    |
| Olive Grove, .....    | L. C. Ragland, ..    | Oxford, N. C. . .     | 18      | 3      | 5        | 1         | 8        | 0     | 178   |
| Piney Grove, .....    |                      |                       | 9       | 0      | 0        | 12        | 0        | 0     | 104   |
| Rocky Spring, .....   | D. A. Howell, .....  | Oxford, N. C. . . . . | 5       | 2      | 0        | 3         | 0        | 0     | 107   |
| Zion Hill, .....      | Jerry Seat, .....    | Hycó, Va . . . . .    | 9       | 1      | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0     | 65    |
| Allen's, .....        | Hugh McGruder,       | Pea Ridge, N. C. .    | 5       | 3      | 0        | 0         | 0        | 2     | 39    |
| Yanceyville, .....    | A. G. Graves, ..     | Yanceyville, N. C. .  | 10      | 0      | 0        | 0         | 0        | 4     | 83    |
| Red Mountain, .....   | John Mitchell, ..    | Tally Ho, " " . .     | 16      | 0      | 0        | 1         | 3        | 0     | 61    |
| County Line, .....    | F. J. Cousins, ..... | Allensville N. C. .   | 6       | 0      | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0     | 13    |
| Graves' Chapel, ..    | A. G. Graves, .....  | Yanceyville, N. C. .  | 2       | 0      | 0        | 0         | 3        | 0     | 60    |
| Lawson's Chapel, ..   | D. A. Howell, ..     | Oxford, N. C. . .     | 0       | 0      | 0        | 0         | 0        | 2     | 30    |
| High Rock, .....      | C. Smith, .....      | Leasburg, N. C. . .   | 2       | 12     | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0     | 52    |
| Hames Chapel, .....   | Frank Walters, ..    | Milton, N. C. . .     | 0       | 0      | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0     | 22    |
| Oak, .....            | Hugh McGruder,       | Pea Ridge, N. C. .    | 0       | 0      | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0     | 150   |
| Mt. Vernon. ....      | John Mitchell --     | Tally Ho, N. C. . .   | 0       | 0      | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0     | 33    |
|                       |                      | Total.                | 214     | 37     | 12       | 52        | 40       | 9     | 2,350 |



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